

*W*illiam Welford

The Behaviour, Confession, &c. of **WILLIAM WELFORD**,  
who was executed at Northampton, April 25, 1740, for breaking open the  
House of *William Green* of Rothwell, and stealing from thence a Piece of  
Tammy.



*A*t his first coming into Prison he utterly denied the Facts whereof he was found guilty on his Tryal: Before his Tryal he was very often press'd hard to turn Evidence for the King, as the only means to save himself; but he always refused, saying, he never wrong'd any one, and would not charge another.—He behaved himself very boldly and audaciously before his Tryal often Singing very profane and shocking Songs. After his Tryal he was most surprizingly grieved at hearing that *Bates* and *Edwards* (who were condemned with him) were reprieved, and he only was to suffer Death; but this grief so vanished on some People telling him that he was also reprieved, (tho' there were never any real Grounds for it) and he would not be persuaded to the contrary till the Night before he suffer'd, when he often declared that it had done a great injury to his Soul, as it had entirely hindred him from preparing himself to appear before his great God and Saviour.

At the Place of EXECUTION,

He deliver'd the following Confession in Writing to the Under-Sheriff, and desir'd it might be publish'd.

**W**illiam Welford doth confess that he was the Person who actually took the piece of Tammy out of the Shop of *William Green* of Rothwell, that *John Cheney* and his Wife were Accessories to his taking of it, and stood near ready to receive it; it was from thence carried to *Cheney's* House, and they two went with it the same Day to *W—s* House, *Cheney's* Wife soon after followed them there, and all three sold it to *W—s*, and *W—s* before-hand knew from whence it was stolen, and they spent most of the Money they had for it (which was ten Shillings) at *W—s* House.

*S—l F—r* several times ask'd *William Welford* to rob the Dwelling-House of *William Ward*, and especially on that Night it was done; he went with *F—r* and

*A—n* to *Benjamin Bull's* Gate that Night to do it but no further; he positively denies that he was any ways concerned in that Fact, and at the time it was done he most assuredly was at *Tunstey's* House, where he went when he left them, and staid there from about 6 to 10 o'Clock: *S—l F—r* in the Morning of the next Day after it was done, confessed to *William Welford* that he and *S—l A—n* had committed the Fact themselves the Night before, that *Cheney* was not concerned in that Fact, and had knowledge of it only by hearsay. *S—l A—n* also confessed to *William Welford* two or three Days after the Fact was done, that he committed it with *S—l F—r* only, that *William Welford* had no part of the Money, and should not have known how much there had been of it, but from *F—r* and *A—n* themselves; That *A—n* had only two Guineas of the Money, and that *S—l F—r* and his *F—r* had the rest of the Money, but old *F—r* was not with them when the Fact was done, and even this, *William Welford* has only heard from *S—l F—r* and *A—n*. That *Cheney* told *William Welford* that he should not have sworn this Fact against him, had he not been persuad'd by some of his Neighbours to do it to save himself, especially by *D—l C—ley* who offer'd *Cheney* Money to swear this Fact against *Welford*.

*William Welford* hath heard that *John Tong* deceas'd could only have a satisfactory Account of the stealing the Surplice, that he had no hand in that Fact nor knows who did it.

*William Welford* was with *Cheney* when he killed a Pig of *William Vial's*, which they left where it was kill'd; that he has been concerned with *Cheney*, *S—l F—r*, *S—l A—n*, *J—n H—d*, *B—n T—t*, *T—s W—e*, *J—n P—r*, *R—t C—k*, all of Rothwell and *Thomas Wallis* of Desborough, in stealing Cocks, Hens and Geese about the Country.

That *R—b P—r* Son of *W—m P—r* of Rothwell about 10 or 11 Years ago was the first Person who persuad'd *William Welford* to the wicked Practice of stealing Cocks, Hens, and Geese, &c. which ever since he with several others hath constantly followed.

The Napkin, Table Cloth and Sheet which were taken out of the Rev. Mr. Chapman's Summer-House at Rothwell, were thrown over the Wall back again by *J—n B—e* and another not certainly known, that *William Welford* does not know any more of that Matter. And this is (he says) what he meant, when he said he had something to discover but it should die with him.

*William Welford* says, that *J—n H—d*, *W—m H—d* and *E—d H—r* met *William Ward* of Rothwell on the Highway, and threw a Stick at him with an intent to rob him of his Money there, as the said *W—m H—d* inform'd *William Welford*.

That he freely forgives those who swore falsely against him, that the false Hopes given him of a Reprieve too long kept him from preparing himself as he ought, that he sincerely Repents of all his Sins and dies in Charity with all Men.